

113. In the Násik and other divisions the work of clearing of boundary lines, as also fellings for free grants of timber, wood supplied for relief kitchens, &c., come under this head. The Executive Engineers of Khándesh and Násik were supplied with timber and bamboos for building huts for famine labourers.

114. Unregulated fellings go on in the old gáirán areas of the Poona Division which extend over 12,576 acres.

115. In the Sátára Division cutting of royalty trees in Málki lands, clearing of boundary lines, &c., were undertaken under this method during the year under report.

(e).—EXTRACTION AND TRANSPORT OF MAJOR FOREST PRODUCE BY LAND AND WATER.

116. Cart tracks traverse the forests of this Circle which are below the gháts, in all directions, as also the forest areas in the Deccan, except on the very mountainous parts, and timber, firewood, bamboos, &c., are carried in bullock carts wherever carts can travel. In some parts of the Sátputa forests timber and bamboos are dragged by bullocks and ponies.

117. In mountainous tracts bordering the Syhádris, timber, &c., is moved on the backs of pack animals and in head-loads. The Forest Department does not undertake the carrying of timber or other forest produce, either by land or by water, but preferentially sells the trees on foot for the purchaser to fell and remove at his own cost. Timber, &c., cut by departmental labour is brought to temporary sale-dépôts, either inside or outside forests, where it is stacked and sold by public auction, the material being removed subsequently by the purchasers. The Narbada, the Tápti, the Godávári, the Bhima, the Koyna and Wárna are the only water-ways which are sometimes used by purchasers, timber-dealers and private owners for floating timber.

(f).—EXPLOITATION OF MINOR FOREST PRODUCE.

(1).—*Extraction of Fodder.*

118. Grass is exploited by hand from certain valuable kurans of the Central Circle, and the right to cut grass is sold by public auction. The grass is also removed on permits issued on payment of fees. The means that are used for removing grass are the same which are used for the removal of timber.

119. The statement given below shows the area from which grass was removed by hand and the amount realized :—

| No. | Division.         | Area.   | Amount. |
|-----|-------------------|---------|---------|
|     |                   | Acres.  | Rs.     |
| 1   | East Khandesh ... | 20,324  | 14,615  |
| 2   | West Khandesh ... | 20,827  | 9,450   |
| 3   | Násik ... ..      | 31,828  | 14,652  |
| 4   | Ahmednagar ... .. | 91,540  | 4,695   |
| 5   | Poona ... ..      | 27,848  | 1,263   |
| 6   | Sátára ... ..     | 18,853  | 4,612   |
| 7   | Sholápur ... ..   | 9,645   | 1,303   |
|     | Total ...         | 220,365 | 50,590  |

120. In the East Khándesh Division 57,531 cart-loads of grass valued at Rs. 7,191 were removed from the forests on permits; while in the West Khándesh Division 66,560 cart-loads, 3,912 head-loads, 974 bullock loads and 73 donkey-loads valued at Rs. 13,329 were removed from forests on payment of fees. In the Násik Division 5,692 cart-loads of grass were removed and the amount realized was Rs. 2,840. In addition to this, owing to the scanty rainfall and want of fodder for cattle, 231,491 pounds of grass were cut in forests at Rs. 2-8-0 per 1,000 lbs., and sold for Rs. 814.

121. In the Ahmednagar Division an area of 4,935 acres, the grass on which is valued at Rs. 12,750, was handed over to the Commissariat Department,